Madras Rapid Transit System

2708. SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM. Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount of assistance received by Railways from the State Government for Madras Rapid Transit System; and

(b) what is the physical target achieved so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Nil, except that land required for the Project is being made available free of cost by the State Government

(b) 14.23 per cent till 31-10-1987.

Monetary Benefits to Attract Doctors to the Rural Areas

2709 SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V ARUNACHALAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state·

(a) what are the special monetary benefits that are proposed by Government to induce the doctors to serve in rural areas; and

(b) what is the expected response to these measures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) To induce doctors to work in rural areas, the 8th Finance Commission, and the suggestions of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, has provided special funds to the States for providing the following incentives to doctors serving in rural areas and not allowed private practice:—

(i) A rural allowance equal to 25 per cent of the basic pay subject to a maximum of Rs. 250 per month for the doctors serving in Primary Health Centres; and

(ii) House rent allowance at the rate of Rs 150 per month where the doctors are not provided residential accommodation.

In addition, the Finance Commission has made special provision of Rs. 53.52 crores for construction of residential quarters for the doctors. The hilly areas have been provided 30 per cent 'mark-up' in the cost of constructions.

(b) There is better deployment of doctors in rural areas because of the incentives offered. As per the latest information available, 19,163 doctors are in position against the sanctioned strength of 22,049 doctors at Primary Health Centres.

Illiteracy in Gujarat

2710. SHRI RAMSINGHBHAI PATALIYABHAI RATHVAKOLI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the illiteracy in Gujarat is the highest in the country.

(b) by when the illiteracy is likely to be removed completely from the country;

(c) the amount spent during 1st January, 1986 to 31st October, 1987 in Gujarat and other States for this purpose and with what results; and

(d) what are the plans, projects and estimates for 1988 and 1989 for removing illiteracy from Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) No, Sir According to 1931 census Gujarat ranks 11th amongst all States/Union Territories in regard to the rate of literacy.